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**Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family**

**Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Benin, Colombia, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Germany, Ghana, Guyana, Malta, Mongolia, Panama, Peru, Romania, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay: draft resolution**

# Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: a society for all ages

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* the World Assembly on Ageing, held in Vienna in 1982, which adopted the International Plan of Action on Ageing,[1]

*Recalling also* the International Conference on Ageing which it convened on 15 and 16 October 1992, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, and which, *inter alia*, recommended the observance of the International Year of Older Persons in 1999,

*Reaffirming* the importance of the United Nations Principles for Older Persons, as adopted by its resolution 46/91 of 16 December 1991,

*Taking note* of the 1998 revision of the official United Nations population estimates and projections, which show that, with the continuation of fertility decline and the increase in life expectancy, the population of the world will age much faster in the next half-century than previously,

*Also taking note* that these population estimates and projections provide, for the first time, detailed estimates and projections of the demographic characteristics of the oldest old, that is, those who are 80 years or older, and demonstrate that the numbers of octogenarians, nonagenerians and centenarians will increase in all countries of the world, and illustrate

[1] See *Report of the World Assembly on Ageing, Vienna, 26 July-6 August 1982* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16), chap. VI, sect. A.

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two phenomena of the oldest oldest-old: the older the age group, the faster it grows, and the higher the ratio of women to men,

*Reaffirming* the need to integrate a gender perspective in ageing policies,

*Conscious* that the ageing of the world's population represents an unparalleled and urgent policy and programme challenge to Governments, non-governmental organizations and private groups in ensuring that the needs of the aged and their human resource potential are adequately addressed,

*Aware* that a revolutionary change in the demographic structure of societies, as well as the rapidity of ageing of populations in developing countries, require a fundamental change in the way in which societies organize their affairs,

*Conscious also* that discrimination and stereotyping of older persons lead to flagrant violations of their human rights,

*Welcoming* General Comment No. 6 (1995) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the economic, social and cultural rights of older persons,[2]

*Acknowledging* the initiatives undertaken and the momentum generated, at all levels, towards addressing the concerns and contributions of ageing and older persons by the celebration of the International Year of Older Persons,

*Convinced* of the necessity to ensure a fruitful follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons, with a view to sustaining this momentum,

*Noting with satisfaction* the focus in the annex to the report of the Secretary General on the elaboration of a policy framework for a long-term perspective strategy on ageing, including a research agenda for the twenty-first century, in the context of a society for all ages,[3]

*Recalling* resolution 37/2 adopted by the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-seventh session, in which the Commission requested the Secretary General to solicit the views of States, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector on updating the International Plan of Action on Ageing and on the desirability and feasibility of convening a review of the outcome of the World Assembly on Ageing in 2002, including the interrelationship of ageing and development,

1. *Notes* that there is a need for guidelines and recommendations reflecting the current situation of societies and older persons in order to design and support adequate age-related policies;

2. *Emphasizes* the need to address the developmental aspects of ageing with particular attention to the situation of developing countries;

3. *Calls* for the collection of data and population statistics disagregated by sex and by age on all aspects of population ageing;

4. *Encourages* the press and the media to play a central role in the creation of awareness of population ageing and related issues, and in the elimination of stereotypes and discrimination of older persons in the media;

5. *Urges* the development of policies and programmes which respond to the rights, needs and abilities of older women;

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[2] E/C.12/1995/16.

[3] A/54/268.

6. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council and all its appropriate subsidiary bodies, in particular the Commission for Social Development, as well as the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the legislative and policy making bodies of the concerned specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations, to give careful consideration to the issue of ageing;

7. *Invites* the Committee on Human Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to include in their questionnaires addressed to States Parties, questions relevant to older persons, and to address such questions during the examination of the reports of States Parties;

8. *Encourages* United Nations funds and programmes, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund, as well as specialized agencies, including the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Bretton Woods institutions, to support activities in the field of ageing;

9. *Also encourages* regional initiatives to follow-up on the International Year of Older Persons and to provide input into the process of revision of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, given that different regions and countries are at different stages of population ageing and need to identify specific policy responses in order to achieve the goal of "A society for all ages",

10. *Takes note with appreciation* of the offer by the Government of Germany to host, if approved, a regional Ministerial Conference on Ageing under the aegis of the Economic Commission for Europe in 2002;

11. *Decides* to entrust the Commission for Social Development with the project of a revision of the International Plan of Action on Ageing and the elaboration of a long-term strategy on ageing, based on new developments since 1982 and on the experience of the International Year of Older Persons in 1999, with a view to the adoption of a revised plan of action and of a long-term strategy on ageing in 2002;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a draft revised plan of action to be submitted to the Commission for Social Development in 2001;

13. *Endorses* the request of the Commission for Social Development, in its resolution 37/2, to the Secretariat, to incorporate, as feasible, the experiences, policies and best practices reported by States into a long-term strategy on ageing, encompassing periodic reviews, for the consideration of the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session in 2001;

14. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development, at its thirty-eighth session, to adopt a recommendation on the desirability and feasibility of convening a second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002, devoted to review the outcome of the First World Assembly as well as to the consideration of a long-term strategy on ageing in the context of a society for all ages, and to report to the General Assembly on this issue during its fifty-fourth session;

15. *Takes note with appreciation* of the offer by the Government of Spain to host, if approved, a second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons".